

**From:** Prakash Puram  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/2/02 12:41pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

The Federal Govt's settlement of the Microsoft case is a fair and just one. Microsoft's competitors are attempting to unduly influence the settlement to gain an unfair competitive advantage for personal benefit. In a market economy, demand and supply forces should be allowed to work over a period of time. I am a small software company that works with Microsoft and find them to be incredibly cooperative and encouraging of my company's product development work. They have rightfully earned their place in US Businesses as a crown jewel and the U.S. Govt. should not pay any heed to the 9 States attempting to derail the settlement on the table.

The U.S. Economy as a whole will benefit dramatically from the innovation and increased productivity to be release by Microsoft if it is rightfully allowed to continue operating its business with all due freedom accorded by the U.S. commercial and trade laws. The stock market will surge higher, the recession will end, businesses will return to a growth mode, and many unrealized benefits will come to fruition the moment the DOJ and the United States close this case without much further legal proceedings. Competitors are trying to leverage their government elected officials unfairly to benefit their personal agendas and I am not willing to put up with this.

I spent most of my working career with IBM and saw how the DOJ shackled IBM's innovation when it too was dubbed a monopoly. After a decade of dragging IBM thru relentless battering, the United States Govt. unwittingly was the main factor in destroying that company's competitive advantage in the marketplace and they passed on the power not to other American firms, but sadly to Fujitsu, Hitachi, NEC, and other Japanese firms. The very basis for assaulting IBM became moot since with or without the DOJ's help, Microsoft rose to leadership thus clearly verifying the fact that innovation and market forces are ultimately the most invincible arbiters of winners and losers. If Microsoft doesn't continue to innovate or provide value for money, within days or weeks corporate America and the individual consumers will cast away Microsoft for better products and services from other companies.

Please end the legal wrangling now and take conscientious decisions to return America, Microsoft and the entire software industry to focusing on their work -- not on legal proceedings. To not close this case immediately bodes bad tidings for the US Economy in 2002 and beyond and we just cannot afford that. Sun, WordPerfect, Palm Novell, AOL, Netscape are all losers because they have bad unproven products. The brand name and the market share of Microsoft is hard-earned and should be preserved not destroyed. Please end the litigation now and ratify the Microsoft - DOJ Settlement without further delay.  
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